

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

To maintain the integrity and operability of enterprise database systems, queries intended for a particular database engine are intercepted, preferably by a separate processing system, prior to being acted upon by the database engine. The query is evaluated to determine its projected 5 impact on available database system resources. The variables evaluated include user rights, administrator-imposed limits to searches, the amount of presently-available system resources, the cost of query and the like. If the query's potential impact does not surpass a predetermined threshold, it is submitted to the search engine. If the query is too resource-intensive or costly, the query may be (i) optimized by a query-optimization system, (ii) stored until more system 10 resources are available, or (iii) rejected.